



City of Dayton Taps Ingenuity of Local High Tech Providers To Enhance Public Services and Employee Productivity

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Thanks to the help of two local high tech firms, the City of Dayton will soon begin using RFID technology to better track and manage street repair projects.

Beginning this spring, thin plastic RFID tags about the size of a straw will be inserted into the ground for all street cut restoration projects within the city. The tags will be color-coded to distinguish between the companies performing the work, such as DPL, Vectren, AT&T, the City of Dayton Water Department, or other utility contractors. Each tag will be programmed with key information specific to that street cut project, including name of the company performing the work, year the work was completed, and permit number. The permit number ties to a larger City database containing more comprehensive information about the project.

Any contractor performing street cut work will be required to insert the RFID tags about two inches below the surface, spaced every 50 feet throughout the length of the project area. When necessary, City engineering crews can then use a hand-held RFID reader to scan the embedded information from above ground. This eliminates the time-consuming task of staff searching through office records to identify the responsible company when problems or defects arise, which in turn ensures necessary repairs get made as quickly as possible.

“What previously took hours or even days for staff to complete can now be done in seconds with the RFID scanner,” Deputy Public Works Director Steve Finke said. “The quicker we can identify the company that performed the original reconstruction work, the quicker the problem can get fixed and our roadways running smoothly again. It’s a huge time saver.”

The idea to use RFID tags was conceived by Andrew Marks, an Engineer-in-Training for the City of Dayton. In 2011, staff from several City departments met with tenants of Tech Town to brainstorm ways new technologies could be applied locally. Marks suggested the concept of the RFID tags after discussions with representatives of the RFID Convergence Center. Those



Dayton City Manager Tim Riordan holds one of the new RFID tags that will help road repairs be made more quickly.

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discussions then led to talks with Al Wofford, CEO of CDO Technologies, and his team, who worked closely with City staff to further plan, develop and test the technology. CDO will also provide the RFID tags, which City staff can program as needed.

City Commissioner Matt Joseph said, “I’m excited about today’s announcement for three reasons: we’re using new technology to improve our internal work operations; we’re promoting the kind of advanced technologies that our region specializes in; and we’re supporting local businesses who are engaged in developing these new technologies. This shows how local business technology can ultimately benefit citizens on a practical level.”

“This is an excellent example of home-grown, high-tech innovation being applied to help improve our city,” City Manager Tim Riordan said. “We’ll be better able to track and manage street restoration projects so repairs get made quicker and our roads stay smoother. The result is less inconvenience to citizens and greater productivity by employees.”

The City of Dayton has amended its permitting regulations to require the RFID tags for any project involving street cuts. Contractors obtain the RFID tags as part of the permit application process. In 2011 approximately 2,500 permits were issued for street cuts. Use of the RFID tags may be expanded in the future to include other roadway construction projects.



Andrew Marks, Engineer-in-Training with the City of Dayton Division of Engineering, demonstrates how a hand-held RFID reader can read an RFID tag beneath a slab of asphalt.

“The tags only cost the City about \$2.00 a piece, and they last indefinitely, so it’s a very small investment for the benefit it produces,” Finke said. “And there’s no increase in cost to the contractors performing the work.”

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